

The friendship and love we felt for our Swiss relatives at that moment was overwhelming. We embraced each other and tears of joy flowed freely. The barriers of a century had been broken. This experience was precious far beyond the wealth of material things and perhaps the beginning of great joy and happiness in the lives of all Kunz family members throughout the world. Our special thanks to all who contributed to this sacred and heart-warming experience and a special thanks to thoughtful August Weidmer for his part.

Our next stop was back to Thun and the Castle of Spiez. As we entered the court room of this Fifteenth Century Castle, we saw the Coat of Arms of Franz Ludwig Von Erlach (1631) and his second wife, Johanna Von Graffenried (1595-1671). We were especially interested in her Coat of Arms because she is on the genealogy sheet Paul Nielson gave to us -- genealogy that he researched for the Kunz family. Johanna was Franz Ludwig's second wife and was the mother of twenty-four of this thirty-five children. Her Coat of Arms was oval and carved in wood. Both hers and her husband's temple work has been completed because of the meticulous records kept in the private office of Herr Brandenburg dating back to the Fourteen-hundreds. We saw many beautiful and treasured works of art by some of the famous artists of that era -- Ischarner (1791-1893) and Riggensburg (1644-1723) are those I remembered. There were many others. Paintings of Franz Ludwig and Johanna and several of their children were hanging in the formal dining hall. Next to the ceiling around the walls was a work of art done in plaster cast, depicting the story of the Prodigal Son and Joseph sold into Egypt. The chairs, table, desk, and other furniture were hand-carved. The kitchen was interesting with huge kettles hanging over the fireplace. Large spits for roasting whole pigs, lambs, and beef, etc. The ancient churn, cupboards, and dishes and even an ancient bread slicer helped us to realize that the people who lived in this castle in Medieval times had hardships to face. They didn't have the conveniences